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TECHNOLOGY CENTER H3/00

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the indicated Amendments and Allow the resulting Claims.

1. (currently amended): A chain saw comprising a-motor-inside-a housing, a-cutter-providing-chain-saw chain comprised of links which include chain link mating elements and cutters, and an elongated support extending outward from inside said housing, ~~said-motor-and-chain-saw-chain-being-functionally-interconnected-inside-said-housing-such-that-operation-of-said-motor-applies-motion-producing-force-to-said-chain-saw-chain~~; in the outer surface of said elongated support there being present a continuous chain channel guide into which said chain link mating elements are slideably inserted, such that during normal operation said chain link mating elements slide essentially freely through said continuous chain channel guide when forced to do so ~~by-operation-of-said-motor~~, said elongated support being slit in a longitudinal direction ~~as-said-chain-saw-is-viewed-in-side-elevation~~, such that the upper and lower portions above and below the longitudinal slit can be separated from one another at at-least at-one location along the longitudinal extent thereof, said longitudinal slit enabling separation of the upper and lower portions of said elongated support, thereby causing ~~of-a~~ "stretching"-of-the-chain-saw-chain,-such-that-when-said stretching-is-appropriate,-the-chain-saw-chain-is-properly tensioned-to-facilitate-motion tensioning of said chain-saw chain.

2. (withdrawn):

3. (withdrawn):

4. (withdrawn):

5. (withdrawn):

6. (withdrawn):

7. (withdrawn):

8. (presently amended): A chain saw comprising a housing and an elongated support extending outward from inside said housing, said elongated support having a longitudinally oriented slit therein ~~as-said-chain-saw-is-viewed-in-side-elevation~~, said ~~elongated~~ longitudinal slit enabling the upper and lower portions above and below the said longitudinal slit to be separated from one another at least at one location along the longitudinal extent thereof.

9. (withdrawn):

10. (withdrawn):

11. (currently amended): A chain saw comprising a-meter-inside a housing, a cutter-providing-chain-saw chain comprised of links which include chain link mating elements and cutters, and an elongated support extending outward from inside said housing, ~~said-meter-and-chain-saw-chain-being-functionally-interconnected-inside-said-housing-such-that-operation-of-said-meter-applies motion-producing-force-to-said-chain-saw-chain~~; in the outer surface of said elongated support there being present a continuous chain channel guide into which said chain link mating elements are slideably inserted, such that during normal operation said chain link mating elements slide essentially

freely through said continuous chain channel guide when forced to do so by-operation-of-said-meter, said continuous chain channel guide having a lateral slit present therein which allows effecting an offset of said continuous chain channel guide thereacross from-one-side-of-said-lateral-slit-to-the-other,- and/or-from-the-top-to-bottom-thereof-said offset,-when-present,- serving to impede the slideability of chain link mating elements across said lateral slit;

the improvement being that said elongated support is slit in a longitudinal direction as-said-chain-saw-is-viewed-in-side elevation, such that the upper and lower portions above and below the longitudinal slit can be separated from one another, said longitudinal slit enabling separation of the upper and lower portions of said elongated support at-at least at one location along the longitudinal extent thereof, thereby the causing of-a "stretching"-of-the-chain-saw-chain,-such-that-when-said stretching-is-appropriate,-the-chain-saw-chain-is-properly tensioned-to-facilitate-motion tensioning of said chain-saw chain.

12. (presently amended): A chain saw as in Claim 11, in which said continuous chain channel guide is caused-to-be in an offset position, from one side of said lateral slit to the other,- unless-a-user-causes-it-to-be-aligned-by-operation-of-an-a- continuous-chain-channel-guide-alignment-means,-thereby- providing-a-chain-saw-which-impedes-the-slideability-of-chain-link-mating-elements-across-said-lateral-slit-until-desired-by-a-user.

13. (canceled):

14. (presently amended): A chain saw as in Claim 11, which further comprises a second lateral slit in said continuous chain channel guide which allows effecting an offset of said continuous

chain channel guide thereacross from-one-side-of-said-second lateral-slit-to-the-other.

15. A chain saw as in Claim 14, in which said continuous chain channel guide is caused-to-be in an offset position across said second lateral slit,-from-one-side-of-said-second-lateral-slit-to-the-other,-unless-a-user-causes-it-to-be-aligned-by-operation-of-an-a-second-continuous-chain-channel-guide-alignment-means,-thereby-providing-a-chain-saw-which-impedes-the-slideability-of-chain-link-mating-elements-across-said-lateral-slit-until-desired-by-a-user.

16. (canceled):

17. (canceled):

18. (canceled):

19. (presently amended): A chain saw comprising a-meter-inside a housing, a cutter-providing-chain-saw chain comprised of links which include chain link mating elements and cutters, and an elongated support extending outward from inside said housing, said-meter-and-chain-saw-chain-being-functionally-interconnected inside-said-housing-such-that-operation-of-said-meter-applies motion-producing-force-to-said-chain-saw-chain; in the outer surface of said elongated support there being present a continuous chain channel guide into which said chain link mating elements slideably insert, such that during normal operation said chain link mating elements slide essentially freely through said continuous chain channel guide when forced to do so by-operation of-said-meter, said continuous chain channel guide having means present therein which allows effecting-an-impeded-chain-channel guide,-said-means-which-allows-effecting-an-impeded-chain-channel guide-serving-to,-when-operated,-impede- impeding the

slideability of a chain saw chain in said continuous chain channel guide;

the improvement being that said elongated support is slit in a longitudinal direction as-said-chain-saw-is-viewed-viewed-in-side elevation, such that the upper and lower portions above and below the longitudinal slit can be separated from one another, said longitudinal slit enabling separation of the upper and lower portions of said elongated support at-at least at one location along the longitudinal extent thereof, thereby the causing of-a "stretching"-of-the-chain-saw-chain,-such-that-when-said stretching-is-appropriate,-the-chain-saw-chain-is-properly tensioned-to-facilitate-motion tensioning of said chain-saw chain.

20. A chain saw as in Claim 19 wherein said means which allows effecting an impeded chain channel guide comprises at least one lateral slit laterally thereacross.

21. (withdrawn):

22. (withdrawn):

23. (withdrawn):

24. (withdrawn):

25. (withdrawn):

26. (withdrawn):

27. (presently amended): A chain saw comprising a meter-inside-a housing, a cutter-providing-chain-saw chain comprised of links which include chain link mating elements and cutters, and an

elongated support extending outward from inside said housing, said-meter-and-chain-saw-chain-being-functionally-interconnected inside-said-housing-such-that-operation-of-said-meter-applies motion-producing-force-to-said-chain-saw-chain; in the outer surface of said elongated support there being present a continuous chain channel guide into which said chain link mating elements are slideably inserted, such that during normal operation said chain link mating elements slide essentially freely through said continuous chain channel guide when forced to do so-by-operation-of-said-meter, said continuous chain channel guide having a lateral slit present therein which can be caused to effect an offset of said continuous chain channel guide thereacross; as-viewed-in-side-elevation;--the-top-of-said-lateral slit-to-the-bottom-thereof-and/or;--as-viewed-from-the-top;--from one-side-of-said-lateral-slit-to-the-other-side-thereof;

said elongated support being slit in a longitudinal direction such that upper and lower portions above and below the longitudinal slit can be separated from one another at least at one location along the longitudinal extent thereof, said longitudinal slit enabling separation of the upper and lower portions of said elongated support, thereby tensioning of said chain.

28. (new): A chain saw as in Claim 1 which further comprises at least one lateral slit in said continuous chain channel guide.

29. (new): A method operating a chain including causing motion of a chain saw chain, comprising the steps of:

a. providing a chain saw comprising a housing, a chain comprised of links which include chain link mating elements and cutters, and an elongated support extending outward from inside

said housing; in the outer surface of said elongated support there being present a continuous chain channel guide into which said chain link mating elements are slideably inserted, such that during normal operation said chain link mating elements slide essentially freely through said continuous chain channel guide, said continuous chain channel elongated support having a longitudinally oriented longitudinal slit therein, such that upper and lower portions above and below the longitudinal slit can be separated from one another along the longitudinal extent thereof, said longitudinal slit enabling separation of the upper and lower portions of said elongated support, thereby causing tensioning of the chain;

- b. causing said upper and lower portions of said elongated support to be appropriately separated from one another, such that slideability of said chain in said continuous chain channel guide is optimized;
- c. causing said chain saw chain to slide essentially freely through said continuous chain channel guide.

30. (new): A method operating a chain including causing motion of a chain saw chain and the stopping thereof, comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a chain saw comprising a housing, a chain comprised of links which include chain link mating elements and cutters, and an elongated support extending outward from inside said housing; in the outer surface of said elongated support there being present a continuous chain channel guide into which said chain link mating elements slideably insert, such that during normal operation said chain link mating elements slide essentially freely through said continuous chain channel guide

when forced to do so;

said chain saw further comprising, in the elongated support, a slit in a longitudinal direction, such that upper and lower portions above and below the longitudinal slit can be separated from one another at least at one location along the longitudinal extent thereof, said longitudinal slit enabling separation of the upper and lower portions of said elongated support, thereby effecting braking of said chain;

b. causing said chain saw chain to slide essentially freely through said continuous chain channel guide;

c. adjusting the distance between the upper and lower portions above and below the longitudinal slit to brake the chain saw chain motion.

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